

**Progress in Providing Telephone Facilities in Villages**

583. MISS FRIDA TOPNO:  
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have fixed any target to provide telephone facilities in all the villages in the country;
- (b) if so, the State-wise progress as on date;
- (c) the specific steps taken to achieve the above target; and
- (d) by when telephone connections would be provided to each and every village of Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has fixed target to provide telephone facility in all the villages of the country with the joint efforts of Fixed Service

Providers. State-wise progress are given in the enclosed Statement. (*See below*)

(c) New Technologies like WLL and C-DOT TDMA/PMP have been inducted into the system to achieve the target. VPTs will be provided on landline upto a distance of 5 Kms. from the exchange.

(d) All the remaining villages in Orissa are proposed to be provided with telecom facility by March, 2002.

**Statement**

*State-wise Progress of Telephone Facilities Provided in Villages*

SI. No	Circles	Total No. of Villages	VPT Target for the year 2000- 2001	Villages with VPTs as on 31.01.2001	Villages left uncovere as on 1.2.2001
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	282	8	282	0
2.	Andhra Pradesh	2946(1)	0	23383	6077
3.	Assam	22224	5000	14478	7746

**RAJYA SABHA** [27 February, 2001]

SI.	Circles	Total No. of Villages	VPT Target for the year 2000-2001	Villages with VPT« as on 31.01.2001	Villages left uncovered as on 1.2.2001
4.	Bihar and Jharkhand	79208	24651	26267	52941
5.	Gujarat	18125	0	13923	4202
6.	Haryana	6850	4	6811	39
7.	Himachal Pradesh	16997	4000	12118	4879
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	6764	2000	3917	2847
9.	Karnataka	27066	1265	26414	652
10.	Kerala	1530	0	1530	0
11.	Madhya Pradesh & Chhattisgarh	71526	5860	47272	24254
12.	Maharashtra	42060	0	31170	10890
13.	Goa	407	0	371	36
14.	Arunachal	3599		672	2927
15.	Manipur	2394		692	1702
16.	Me^hataya	5629		1215	4414
17.	Mi/or.im	770	5110	621	149
18.	Nngainnd	1192		649	543
19.	Tripura	862		660	202
20.	Orissa	46989	14000	23486	23503
21.	Punjab	12687	0	12687	0
22.	Rajasthan	38634	0	23816	14818
23.	Tamil Nadu	17991	55	17898	93
24.	Uttar Pradesh (I:)	75698	18000	56188	19510
25.	Uttar Pradesh (W) & Utranchal	39551	9000	25415	14136
26.	West Bengal	37910	10900	20874	17036
27.	Sikkirn	427	100	301	126

SI. No.	Circles	Total No. of Villages	VPT Target for the year 2000-2001	Villages with VPTs as on 31.01.2001	Villages left uncovered as on 1.2.2001
28.	Calcutta	468	47	421	47
29.	Delhi	191	0	191	0
	TOTAL	607491	100000	393722	213769

**Disconnection of Phones**

† 584. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there are complaints from different parts of the country regarding disconnection of telephones even after making payments of telephone bills;
- (b) if so, whether Government have taken any concrete steps in this direction; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Normally telephones are disconnected due to non payment of dues. However, in rare cases telephone may get disconnected on account of late receipt of information about payments made in Post Offices or in designated banks.

(b) and (c) Steps regarding computerizing billing and accounting have been taken by Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited, to facilitate immediate linking of payment particulars to avoid disconnection.

**VRS in MTNL**

† 585. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited is formulating a Voluntary Retirement Scheme for its

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.